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ARM-INMAN; 3RD LD; 600

↑EDS: EDITS TO INCLUDE INMAN COMMENTS TO NEWSPAPER. JOBS GRAF 17-20 WITH CONFIRMATION OF STUDY; INSERTS GRAF 17-20 WITH INMAN QUOTES FROM BALTIMORE INTERVIEW. EDITING ELSEWHERE TO TIGHTEN.

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WASHINGTON (AP) - ADM. BOBBY INMAN, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, IS RESIGNING TO ENTER PRIVATE BUSINESS; THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED WEDNESDAY.

THE WHITE HOUSE RELEASED AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS IN WHICH INMAN ASKED TO LEAVE HIS POST AS SOON AS A SUCCESSOR COULD BE CONFIRMED.

PRESIDENT REAGAN ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION "WITH DEEP REGRET."

INMAN SAID IN HIS LETTER THAT HE BELIEVED "THE INITIAL CHALLENGE HAS BEEN MET" IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S GOAL OF STRENGTHENING THE NATION'S INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES.

THE PRESIDENT'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON THOSE LINES "WILL RANK AS ONE OF THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOUR FIRST TERM," INMAN WROTE.

THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE WORD ON A SUCCESSOR TO THE 51-YEAR-OLD INMAN. TRADITIONALLY, ONE OF THE TOP TWO JOBS AT THE CIA GOES TO A CIVILIAN AND THE OTHER TO A MILITARY OFFICER.

THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID INMAN HAD WANTED TO RETIRE AT THE END OF 1980, AS THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WAS LEAVING OFFICE, BUT HAD BEEN PERSUADED TO TAKE THE NO. 2 CIA POST.

INMAN'S LETTER WAS DATED MARCH 22; THE PRESIDENT'S WAS DATED WEDNESDAY.

DEPUTY WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY LARRY SPEAKES SAID THE ADMINISTRATION DELAYED ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESIGNATION IN THE HOPES IT COULD NAME A SUCCESSOR AT THE SAME TIME, BUT DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WHEN IT LEARNED THAT A NEWSPAPER - WHICH HE DID NOT IDENTIFY - WAS ABOUT TO PUBLISH A STORY ON INMAN'S DEPARTURE.

SPEAKES SAID HE KNEW OF NO REASON FOR INMAN'S RESIGNATION OTHER THAN WHAT HE WROTE. ANOTHER WHITE HOUSE SOURCE SAID IT WAS "NOT BECAUSE OF ANY FIGHTS; SO I AM TOLD."

ONE CONSERVATIVE SOURCE WHO HAS ACCESS TO INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION SAID WEDNESDAY EVENING THAT INMAN RESIGNED BECAUSE HE HAD "VIOLENTLY OBJECTED" TO A STUDY OF COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE MEASURES AUTHORIZED BY PRESIDENT REAGAN.

THIS SOURCE, WHO INSISTED ON ANONYMITY, SAID THE STUDY WOULD SHOW THAT INMAN, WHILE HE HEADED THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY UNDER THE

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